

**SEPTEMBER 24, 2018
WILMETTE, IL
REGULAR MEETING**

A regular meeting of the Board of Education was held on Monday, September 24, 2018 at the Mikaelian Education Center, 615 Locust Road, Wilmette, Illinois. President Mark Steen called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Members Present: Mark Steen, Jon Cesaretti, Tracy Kearney, Frank Panzica, Alice Schaff, Lisa Schneider-Fabes

Members Absent: Ellen Sternweiler

Administrators Present: Ray Lechner, Ellen Crispino, Romy DeCristofaro, Heather Glowacki, Katie Lee

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Principal Cindy Anderson presented Romona students who introduced themselves and identified characteristics they appreciated about the WELL Garden. The students then lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVE THE MINUTES

Mr. Panzica moved, seconded by Mrs. Schaff, to accept the minutes of the August 27, 2018 Budget Hearing, August 27, 2018 Permanent Interfund Transfer Hearing, and August 27, 2018 Board of Education Regular and Executive Session Meetings. The minutes were approved as submitted by **General Consent.**

ANNOUNCEMENT

Mr. Steen reminded everyone that this is a public meeting and all are among neighbors and fellow residents. He stated appropriate conduct is expected from everyone. He asked that people speak only when called upon, that everyone treat each other kindly and with proper respect, and refrain from distracting behaviors such as such as loud conversations, cheering, clapping, or booing.

SAFETY & SECURITY

Dr. Lechner addressed the community’s concerns regarding an incident that occurred in the home of a Wilmette Junior High student over the weekend. The student’s parents had called Wilmette Police upon discovering weapons in the child’s bedroom. Police requested the Cook County Bomb Squad conduct a search of the junior high school. No weapons or explosives were found at the school. Dr. Lechner noted that while a joint communication from the police department and the school district was emailed to families and staff that same day, and subsequent emails to the community went out the next day, better communication practices would be reviewed. He also stated that safety and security measures would be reexamined along with recommendations from parents, students, and staff. He said the District would follow up on additional security cameras, increased social media monitoring, and empowering students to report anything they may witness. Dr. Lechner also stressed student and family privacy is a priority to safeguard children and the community.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Jen Jobrack of Wilmette stated that while she was appreciative of the tremendous professionalism of District staff and grateful for the student's family's actions, the uncomfortable truth was that communication while fair was poor. She said while she's aware of privacy conditions, communications need to be transparent and timely. She asked for a later response to three concerns; if the student would be permanently separated from the District; if there was policy and procedure such as a "decision tree" and police procedures that could be shared; how shortcomings are being addressed. She suggested a public forum be held to allow the community to air their concerns.

Chris Oh of Wilmette stated while this was an isolated incident the District needs to address the overall environment where it is easy to obtain guns and explosives and how to prevent a future occurrence. He noted the communications sent were all reactive and the District needs to find ways to be proactive and provide more preventative measures. He agreed that a public town hall meeting would be beneficial to the community.

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

School Finance – Mr. Panzica reported the committee met on September 17th. He stated the committee briefly began to review fund balance reserve levels and requested additional data for the next meeting. He noted the committee utilized their time to enter executive session to discuss events that transpired on September 16th.

Facility Development – Mrs. Schaff reported the committee met on September 27th. They discussed two main topics; kindergarten enrichment and Highcrest Phase II construction. She stated Colby Lewis of STR Architects explained the refinements of spaces at Harper and Central to offer kindergarten enrichment by 2020-2021 school year. Mrs. Schaff stated Highcrest Phase II construction includes a Learning Commons and special education classrooms. The interior design plans allow for integration with the courtyard and garden.

Community Review Committee – Dr. Lechner stated the committee met last week and got acquainted with new members. The new topic being researched is K-4 Mobile Learning. They divided into two groups; one will conduct traditional research surveys and the other will explore other districts.

Educational Foundation – Dr. Lechner reported on behalf of Mrs. Sternweiler who was not in attendance. The Ed Foundation held its first meeting on September 20th. The Gripp Grant season has begun and teachers are submitting new proposals. The committee formed a new Corporate Sponsorship Committee that is developing a corporate match program. Two social events sponsored through the Foundation are the Taste of Wilmette this Thursday and the Annual Fashion Show on November 7th.

Superintendent Search Update – Mrs. Schneider-Fabes stated the SCHOOL EXEC CONNECT search firm is creating a new profile to guide the candidate selection process. She stated the survey is open till October 10th and encouraged the community to participate. She said the search firm hosted several focus group sessions for staff and community members. The search firm representatives would present their results at the October 22nd Board of Education meeting.

Board Agenda Items

Legislative Update

Mrs. Kearney stated there was no legislative update at this time.

INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Written Communication

The Board received two written communications this month: Sara Lapidus regarding after school care programs at the elementary schools and Sarah Titterton regarding Highcrest band bus routes and times.

B. Administrative Announcements

Dr. Lechner stated the Highcrest Hawk Nest and the WJHS Wolf Den after-school programming got underway on September 4th. He noted about twenty students attend the program at Highcrest and about ten students at the junior high. Students play games, work on homework, and enjoy time in the Learning Commons. He noted this after school programming is available to all students as long as they are registered.

Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)

Dr. Lechner stated the District received two FOIA requests this month: John Klingner, Wirepoints Policy Analyst, requested the current contracts for all District 39 officials, including administrators and any other employee with individual employment contracts that are not part of any collective bargaining agreement; SmartProcure commercial FOIA request for any/all purchase orders and vendor ID numbers, names, addresses, contacts and email addresses.

C. Strategic Plan Updates

1. 2018-2019 District 39 Strategic Plan

Dr. Lechner stated this report is District 39's Strategic Plan for 2018-2019. He noted the administration respectfully submits this detailed report outlining new and continuing initiatives as well as annual business for Board of Education approval. The two new initiatives are School Nutrition and Differentiated Instruction. The District continues its work regarding Kindergarten Enrichment, Personalized Learning, School Climate, Student Growth, School Attendance, and Learning Commons. Each initiative has been additionally categorized by year and phase of implementation.

Ms. Lee presented the report on behalf of all District 39 administrators. She reviewed the yearly planning cycle. She noted there were three phases of each initiative; developing; implementing; reflecting. She noted new initiatives in early stages of development are School Nutrition and Differentiated Instruction. She reported continued initiatives have already been introduced and are ongoing focus areas. These include Kindergarten Enrichment, Personalized Learning, Student Growth, and Learning Commons. She stated School Attendance is in the reflecting stage. Ms. Lee then reported on the goals and outcomes for Annual Business from the Curriculum & Instruction, Student Services, and the Business department.

Mr. Panzica made several comments, which included lessons learned from previous Learning Commons applied to the Highcrest Learning Commons construction, ideas for utilizing maker spaces, how to address difficulties with student facilitated instruction for personalized learning.

Mr. Panzica and Mr. Steen appreciated the hard work and evolution of the report over past years.

D. Annual Business

1. Summer Enrichment Program 2018

Dr. Lechner stated District 39's 2018 Summer Enrichment Program provided opportunities for 542 students to participate in 128 different session offerings either at Wilmette Junior High or Romona Elementary School. In addition to the enrichment classes, academic camps, BASIC classes in reading and math, and Extended School Year services for students that qualified through an IEP ran concurrently. He stated that cancelling classes that didn't meet the required threshold allowed the program to remain self-sufficient.

Dr. DeCristofaro recognized the staff who supported the summer program and noted their collaborative efforts contributed to the success of the program. She said parents' feedback was highly favorable. She stated the program offered fun and interesting courses in creative arts, technology, and physical activity. She reported the program remains self-sufficient and no fee increases were needed.

Mr. Panzica commented that the decision to adjust fees to have the program be self-sufficient worked, did not impact student populations, and satisfaction was high. He commended the outcome. Mr. Cesaretti offered his congratulations on the net budget.

E. Board Policy Review

1. Second and Final Reading of Board of Education Policy 6:135 and 3:40; Revised Policies 3:10, 3:40, 3:50 and 3:80

Dr. Lechner stated policies were adjusted based on Board members feedback.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

ACTION ITEMS

A. Consent Agenda

Mr. Panzica moved, seconded by Mrs. Schaff, to approve the personnel report dated September 24, 2018 which included licensed part-time employment of **Madlena Dugandzic**, effective September 30, 2018; educational support personnel full-time employment of **Diane Fischer**, effective September 24, 2018; **Melissa Gold**, effective September 11, 2018; **Carolyn Kuttan**, effective September 7, 2018; **Jack McWilliams**, effective September 4, 2018; **Mercy Ndungu**, effective August 27, 2018; **Alexis Odisho**, effective September 11, 2018; **Kimberly Pawliger**, effective September 4, 2018; **Toni Poyser**, effective September 18, 2018; **Valerie Weber**, effective September 11, 2018; **Ted Weissberg**, effective September 6, 2018; **Kendra Welch**, effective September 24, 2018; **Hannah Worrell**, effective September 18, 2014; temporary employment of **Franca Hekster**, effective September 1, 2018; **Lorraine London**, effective September 4, 2018; **Stacy Shedivy**, effective September 1, 2018; educational support personnel resignation **Madlena Dugandzic**, effective September 29, 2018; **Hayley Forde**, effective September 14, 2018; **Anna Fudali**, effective September 21, 2018; **Kaitlan Johnson**, effective September 25, 2018; **Amy Martin**, effective September 28, 2018; **Sarah Michaelson**, effective September 7, 2018; educational support personnel retirement of **Fran Rosenthal**, effective June 30, 2020; Lisa Swift, effective June 30, 2019: to approve the 2018-2019 District 39 Strategic Plan: to approve as second and final reading Board of Education Policy 6:135 *Accelerated Placement* and 3:40 *Superintendent* and revised Policies 3:10 *Goals and Objectives*; 3:50 *Administrative*

Personnel Other Than the Superintendent; and 3:60 Responsibility of the Building Principal and Assistant Principal: approve the accounts payable for bills listed between August 28, 2018 – September 24, 2018 in the following amounts: Educational Fund \$310,782.82; O&M Fund \$405,340.74; Transportation Fund \$29,785.74; Capital Projects \$1,329,221.00; total all funds: \$2,075,130.30; approve the manual checks issued between August 28, 2018 and September 24, 2018 in the following amounts: Educational Fund \$543,035.23; O&M Fund \$10,685.80; Transportation Fund \$676.15; total all funds: \$554,397.18.

On a roll call vote on the motion, voting “yea” – Jon Cesaretti, Tracy Kearney, Frank Panzica, Alice Schaff, Lisa Schneider-Fabes, Mark Steen; voting “nay” – none; absent – Ellen Sternweiler:

Motions Carried.

CONFERENCE ITEMS

Old Business

None

New Business

None

Good and Welfare

None

Mr. Panzica moved, seconded by Mrs. Schaff to adjourn to executive session to discuss collective bargaining, individual student, and review executive session minutes for release and executive session recordings for disposal in accordance to Policy 2:220.

On a roll call vote on the motion, voting “yea” – Jon Cesaretti, Tracy Kearney, Frank Panzica Alice Schaff, Lisa Schneider-Fabes, Mark Steen; voting “nay” – none; absent – Ellen Sternweiler: **Motion Carried.**

The meeting adjourned to executive session at 7:51 p.m. and returned to the regular meeting of the Board of Education at 8:40 p.m.

Being no further business, Mr. Panzica moved, seconded by Mr. Cesaretti, to adjourn the regular meeting of the Board of Education. It adjourned at 8:41 p.m. by **General Consent.**

President

Secretary